

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing a tool comprising a hollow body including a circumferential wall having a distal end, the tool also comprising an extension that protrudes from the circumferential ~~wall,~~ wall beyond the distal end and forms a platform that is open in ~~at least one a~~ radial direction and has a side surface facing in the radial direction,

providing an expandable structure;

introducing the tool and the expandable structure into a bone having an interior volume occupied, at least in part, by cancellous bone;

positioning the platform near the expandable structure, with the side surface of the platform located between the expandable structure and a first region of the cancellous bone which is not to be compressed;

forming a cavity in a second region of cancellous bone by expanding the expandable structure ~~from the distal end towards~~ against the side surface of the platform with the platform serving as a barrier to induce the expandable structure to expand radially away from the side surface of the platform ~~in the at least one radial direction~~ to compress the second region of the cancellous bone, while the first region of the cancellous bone remains substantially ~~not compressed~~ uncompressed, and

introducing a filler material into the cavity.

2 – 3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously presented). The method of claim 1, wherein during the expanding the expandable structure displaces at least a portion of a cortical bone within the bone.

5 – 11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously presented). The method of claim 1, wherein the filler material comprises bone cement.

13 – 22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously presented). A method according to claim 1, wherein the tool and the expandable structure are introduced into a vertebral body having an interior volume occupied, at least in part, by cancellous bone.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the extension protrudes from the distal end of the hollow body from only a **relatively small** circumferential portion of the circumferential wall of the hollow body.